

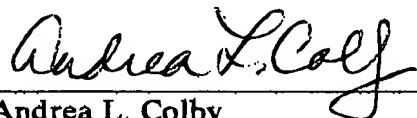
- I. Claims 27-46, drawn to topical compositions, classified in class 424, subclass 401.
- II. Claim 47, drawn to compositions comprising retinal, classified in class 514, subclass 461+.
- III. Claim 48, drawn to methods of mitigating retinoid irritation of human skin, classified in class 514, subclass 725+.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement and respectfully submit that the searching of all Groups of claims should not entail a burden upon the Patent and Trademark Office. Applicants, however, provisionally elect the claims of Group I (27-46) to prosecute in this patent application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action of September 10, 2002 in light of the foregoing discussion. Applicants respectfully call the attention of the Patent Office to the fact that claim 1, still pending in this application, has neither been canceled nor included in the restriction requirement.

An early search and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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